

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Honorable Paul B. Ragsdale of Dallas, who served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1973 to 1986, has rendered exceptional service to the people of Texas; and

WHEREAS, One of the first African Americans to be elected to the Texas Legislature following the end of Reconstruction, a century before, Mr. Ragsdale represented District 110, which encompassed Oak Cliff/South Dallas in Dallas County; though only 28 years old during his freshman term, he quickly became a knowledgeable and effective legislator, working with members across the political spectrum; and

WHEREAS, Committed to advancing minority participation in politics and government, Mr. Ragsdale sponsored legislation relating to single-member districts for the boards of the Dallas Independent School District and the Dallas County Community College District; he also endeavored to establish single-member districts for the Dallas City Council and the creation in Dallas of justice of the peace and constable precincts in which minorities could be elected; and

WHEREAS, During his first term, he sought to establish a statewide human relations commission and a strong commission to oversee public utilities; in addition, he began pressing state agencies to increase their hiring of minorities and women, and he won approval for the establishment of a state equal employment opportunity office; and

WHEREAS, Among the achievements in which he took particular pride was the passage of legislation limiting the size of kindergarten through second-grade classes to 22 students, down from the earlier recommended limit of 30 children per class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ragsdale's committee assignments included public education and regions, compacts, and districts, in addition to the state, federal, and international relations committee, which he chaired; he also served as chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Following the end of the 1973 regular session, Paul Ragsdale became the moving force behind the East Texas Project, a series of lawsuits seeking the reapportionment of county commissioner precincts in 48 East Texas counties; he created a special projects committee to pursue that litigation, as well as to promote black business enterprise and various community causes; and

WHEREAS, Born on January 14, 1945, Mr. Ragsdale was raised near Jacksonville and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from

The University of Texas at Austin; afterward he moved to Tarrant County and worked as an analyst for the Dallas Crossroads Community Center, now the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center, before resigning to run for the legislature in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Through his legislative skill and his profound commitment to addressing the problems of poor and minority citizens, Paul Ragsdale has contributed significantly to building a stronger, more just society in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend the Honorable Paul B. Ragsdale for his outstanding legislative and civic service and extend to him sincere appreciation for his spirited and steadfast efforts over the years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Ragsdale as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

	Jones
of Dallas	
	Davis
of Dallas	
Hodge	
Giddings	

_____	Speaker of the
House	

I certify that H.R. No. 354 was adopted by the House on July 19, 2005, by a non-record vote.

_____	Chief Clerk of the
House	